categories from the PDS, into actual practice, an alternate workable modality could be too determine the number, categories of persons which could be considered as ostensibly better off and clearly non-poor, for exclusion.

(iv) The Central Government should issue guidelines on the categories to be excluded.

The policy, however, varies from State to State at present.

Detention under Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commoditis Act, 1980

3452. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons detained under the Preventoin of Black-marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 in various parts of the country during the last two years and till date, State-wise;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the present position in each of the above cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the accused persons are acquitted in such cases; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Details are given in the Annexed statement *(See* below).

(b) Details of detention and the present position in individual cases of detention are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) and (d) Central Government has advised State Governments and UT Administrations to exercise the powers under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 with great care and caution so that acquittals do not take place on technical grounds.

Statement

Statewise number of persons ordered to be detained under the prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during 1992, 1993 and 1994 (till 31.7.94).

State	No. of detention		
	1992	1993	1994 (upto 31.7.94)
1. Andhra Pradesh	12	17	12
2. Assam	01	10	02
3. Gujarat	147	97	28
4. Karnataka	—	—	01
5. Madhya Pradesh	—	02	—
6. Maharashtra	—	—	01
7. Orissa	06	06	—
8. Tamilnadu	06	—	—
9. Uttar Pradesh	—	—	03

Remaining States/UTs have not reported any detention under the Act during this period.

Shortage of essential commodities in Madhya Pradesh

3453. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of essential commodities in the rural and backward areas of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Gvoernment of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central Government to enhance the supply of essential commodities in that State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,